

WEEKLY NEWS

Thursday, December 24, 2009

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We wish all our readers and advertisers a very Merry Christmas

Tills still jingling despite snowfall

BY JOHN DOWNING

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk



It's all white!: Jacob Eden, 2, crafts the perfect snowball. Right, Mark Cridge faces an icy barrage from son Adam, 5.

Pictures: Keith Jones 617896/74.

THE snow may have caused some people to stay at home but businesses in Haverhill were upbeat about trading in the run up to Christmas.

Icy roads and the bitter weather conditions affected many town centres across the country this week.

Paul Donno, vice-chairman of the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, said he was in Haverhill High Street on Saturday – the day expected by many to be the busiest shopping day of the year.

He was pleased with the number of shoppers attracted by the Tesco store, which opened earlier this year, who continued their shopping in the town centre.

He said: "The crowds in the high street looked fine.

"And having visited Tesco and seeing the footfall, I was encouraged that there were



so many people using the walkway into the town.

"The one thing that was missing this year was Woolworths. It did have a big draw in the town."

Fellow chamber member Elaine Carr, of Flip Flop Marketing, agreed that Tesco has had a positive impact on the town's trade – as has Iceland, which occu-

pies the former Woolworths site.

She said: "Tesco has done well for the town but Iceland has also been doing a roaring trade, and so has Frankie & Benny's and Prezzo.

"It is difficult to pin the success to one element – all these things have happened in the past 18 months and

the cumulative effect has been very positive for the town."

Gordon Mussett, clerk to the town council, said the bad weather had had a slight effect on audience numbers for one event at the arts centre, which it runs.

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Cash to fund youth projects

GRANTS of up to £5,000 are now available to voluntary or community groups in Suffolk for youth projects.

Suffolk Youth and Connections Service will hand out grants of between £250 and £5,000 to use towards projects for young people. But time is running out and groups have until January 15, 2010, to apply.

In the last 18 months, £170,000 has been awarded to 35 projects from 29 different organisations. Projects have included youth groups and outdoor activities which have given young people the opportunity to get involved and develop skills.

The application form is available at www.connections4suffolk.org.uk/voluntary_sector or contact Stephen Skeet, funding development co-ordinator on (01473) 260172.

The final decision about the applications received will be made on the January 29. All voluntary or community groups who apply for funding need to be affiliated to Young Suffolk, a county-wide organisation for the children and young people's voluntary sector. For details visit www.onesuffolk.co.uk/youngsuffolk

Car scratched by vandals

VANDALS scratched a car while it was parked in Haverhill.

The silver-coloured Peugeot 106 was in Hundon Place when the incident happened between 8pm Sunday and 9am the following day.

Anyone with information should call Pc Jane Mangnall at Haverhill Police on (01284) 774100 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Grants for councils and there's more on the way

Pupils whip up tasty treats

MIDDLE school pupils have been going bananas with some tasty smoothie making thanks to a winning pupil and their local supermarket.

Jackie Barnett, Tesco home economist, recently visited Castle Hill Middle School in Haverhill, demonstrating to pupils how to make delicious, healthy smoothies and promote healthy eating.

The school won the workshop after Year 6 pupil Paulina Rozentalska entered a competition inviting pupils to draw a poster describing how they like to stay healthy. Not only did Paulina win the smoothie workshop for her year group, but she also received a £50 Tesco gift card for herself and a £500 donation for her school.

As part of the workshop, Jackie used fresh fruit such as mangoes, natural yoghurt or fruit juice, to whip up all kinds of delicious smoothies to satisfy all tastes.

Claire Buckle, from Castle Hill, said: "Jackie was brilliant. It was great that the children could learn about healthy eating in a fun, interactive environment, and they loved trying the different smoothies."



Smooth operators: Jackie Barnett with pupils Paulina Rozentalska, Courtney Taylor and Molly Nippres.

BY JO DEEKS

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SEVERAL local groups have received Lottery cash in the latest allocation of grants.

A total of £212,665 was distributed to 28 groups across the region in the latest round of The Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme.

These included £5,200 to Ridgewell Parish Council, £5,581 to Linton Parish Council, £4,524 to the Hundon Parish Plan Steering Group and £6,500 to the West Suffolk Voluntary Organisation for the Blind.

Now organisers of the fund are encouraging people to consider how Lottery support could help their New Year's resolutions get off the ground.

Sara Betsworth, Big Lottery Fund head of region for East of England, said: "As the New Year approaches people take a step back and look at what they are doing for themselves, their families, and perhaps even their communities.

"Some decide to make a difference by taking up a new activity, learn a new skill, or help their community, and an Awards for All grant can help make this happen.

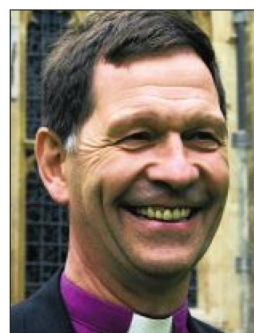
"Perhaps your community group would like to run some healthy eating classes or fitness sessions, freshen up the local village hall or improve play facilities for local children – these are all affordable, inclusive activities for communities, especially at a time when many people are feeling the pinch.

"Now is the time to gather your ideas and get your applications in."

The Awards for All programme launched in April, and with £45million to distribute it is the fund's biggest-ever commitment to a small grant scheme supporting community projects.

The scheme offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 to social and environmental projects that will benefit local communities and make a difference to the lives of those most in need.

Full details of all the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grants are available at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk



AN APPEAL for more support for local charities helping families and children is the Christmas message from the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rt Rev Nigel Stock.

He said: "2009 has been the International Year of the Child. "Throughout the last 12 months, Suffolk has enjoyed a series of events which have showcased what young people can do when

A Christmas message from the Right Reverend Nigel Stock.



they are moved by a creative spirit, culminating in the Big Crib exhibition at the beginning of Advent.

"Schools from across the county

were encouraged to think very widely and very imaginatively about portraying the classic picture of the Holy family in the stable at the time of the birth of Jesus.

"Some of the cribs and their models were bigger than life-size. The extraordinary power of the Christmas story caught young people's imagination and they wanted to work so hard to portray it.

"We need to think again, in this Year of the Child, about the God who came to us, a small vulnerable child, dependant on his parents. It shows both the care God has for the human race, for this world and his care for the youngest and most vulnerable in society.

"I hope this Christmas that people perhaps think what extra they might do to support some charity, some cause, some local

organisation which particularly cares for families and for children.

"Christmas is a time when we celebrate and indulge ourselves. But I hope that we can also put something aside to help those less well off.

"Recall that nativity scene, when God came to us as a very vulnerable baby and offer our support and care for the most defenceless in society."

Time to celebrate but remember the next generation

Road death toll drops

DEATHS on Cambridgeshire roads have fallen dramatically.

Last year 60 people were killed on the county's roads – but this year 23 people have lost their lives.

Road deaths fell by 30 per cent last year, compared with 86 fatalities in 2007.

Police investigated 52 fatal collisions during 2008 and have used their findings to target accident hot-spots.

The success of the average speed cameras on the A14, which were introduced in June 2007, has also contributed to the reduction in fatalities, say police.

They helped to create an 80 per cent fall in accidents on the notorious road during the first 12 months.

Pc Tony Barrios, casualty reduction officer, said: "There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of deaths, which is probably down to a number of reasons.

"We have been very proactive on the A1307 and the number of deaths has fallen.

"Engineering work along the road, including more signs, have also helped, along with other improvements to that road."



Attack!: Mark Cridge faces a snowy onslaught from son Adam, 5, and daughters Nikita, 9, and Nicole, 12.

Pictures: Keith Jones 617897/92/73.



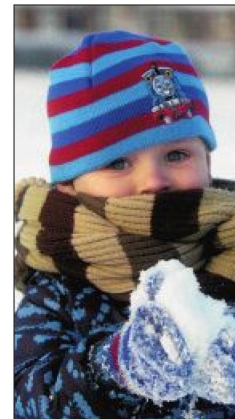
Tills still ringing out

■ From Page 1

He said: "The weather reduced the number of young people at an event we had on Friday but we are expecting full houses for the pantomime."

The effects of the weather were also noticed at car parks in the town operated by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, which a spokeswoman said were "gripped and usable with caution".

Shoppers were cautious of the road conditions and turned up later in the day on Friday and Saturday but by Sunday parking patterns were almost back to normal.



It's work as usual for some

AS YOU look forward to spending the festive season with loved ones this year, spare a thought for those who will be working this Christmas to keep the county's essential services running.

From gritting the roads to fighting fires, it is business as usual for many Suffolk County Council employees during this festive season.

Jeremy Pembroke, leader of the county council said: "On behalf of the council, I really want to express my thanks to all members of our staff who will be working incredibly hard over Christmas to maintain vital services and continue to protect the most vulnerable people in our community."

Among those on duty will be White Watch from the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, as well as employees from a range of other services including children's homes.

Simon White, director for children and young people's services, said: "It's very important everyone at our children's homes fully enjoys the festive season.

"We know how hard our staff on the ground will be working to ensure all the children have a very Happy Christmas. I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts, they are very much appreciated."

Also on duty throughout Christmas and New Year will be someone from each of the three area highway teams to keep a close eye on the weather forecast.

Depending on the level of response needed, they will be able to mobilise some, or all of the council's fleet of 38 gritters at any time of the day or night, in order to keep the roads as safe as possible.

Cannabis factory pair set to face deportation

TWO Chinese men have been jailed for helping run a cannabis factory in a house.

When police raided the rented property at Fritton Court, Haverhill, they found nearly 250 cannabis plants capable of producing enough of the drug to sell for £59,000 on the streets.

The men, Shuai Yang and Long Lin, were arrested when they tried to drive off from the house when police arrived to carry out a search on August 19.

The pair, who appeared at Ipswich Crown Court for sentence after previously admitting being involved in illegal production of the drug, had

BY JOHN GOODE

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been paid £50 a day for growing the plants.

Yang, 22, of Milton Road, Cambridge, was jailed for 22 months and Lin, 35, of Dunlace Road, Hackney, east London, was given a sentence of two years and four months. They will both have 124 days already spent in jail deducted from their sentence and face deportation when they finish their sentence.

Naomi Turner, prosecuting, said the landlord of the house, Richard Woodford, found extensive damage had

been caused to interior walls and ceilings where ventilation equipment had been installed. The electricity meter had been bypassed.

Yang told police he had been recruited through a telephone call to act as a driver for his co-defendant. He said he had never gone inside the house and had not been involved in setting up or running the cannabis growing operation.

Lin said he had responded to a newspaper advertisement for a gardener and had been paid to visit the house regularly to water the plants and harvest them. He also denied having been involved in setting up the operation.

The court heard that Lin had four previous convictions, all for breaching copyright and trade marks and had served three previous prison sentences.

Marc Brown, appearing for Lin, said he had been smuggled into the UK in 1999 and at one stage had applied for asylum and was granted a work permit but that had been revoked by the Home Office.

Mark Seymour, mitigating for Yang, said: "He is a man who was involved at the bottom end of a sophisticated enterprise."

Recorder Rex Bryan said Lin was an "important cog in the wheel" of the drug operation.

Spread the word against smoking

Haverhill pupils who aspire to follow in the footsteps of their big screen idols have the chance to live out their movie dreams thanks to a new project designed to spread the stop smoking message.

The Suffolk SmokeFree Alliance has teamed up with Healthy Ambitions Suffolk to give Year 9 and 10 pupils the chance to make their own movie about tobacco. The short film can cover anything from addiction and passive smoking to chewable tobacco, pressures to try a cigarette and why some young people think smoking is cool.

All of the films will be judged by a celebrity panel with four shortlisted in each category. The school which produces the film judged as best overall will be presented with a £1,000 prize.

For more information, ring (01473) 770140.

Families needed to play host

HOST families are needed to help an upper school welcome more Chinese students next year.

Haverhill's Samuel Ward Arts and Technology College has welcomed 10 Chinese students into its sixth form, where they are taking A level courses for two years.

In September 2010, Samuel Ward hopes to welcome another 25 Chinese students.

In order for them to gain the most from their English experience, the school is looking for host families for their first academic year. They will be assisted by a full-time Chinese member of staff who lives in Haverhill and is responsible for the students' emotional welfare.

Host families are asked to provide room and board.

The students are expecting to pay £130 per week each for a spacious bedroom and £110 per week if sharing or if the room is small.

The students will almost certainly be flying back to China during the Christmas and Easter holidays.

Host families will need to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check.

For more information, contact Jan Bergau on (01440) 761511.



Athletics champions: Kedington Primary School pupils, clockwise from centre Jessica Thomas, 8, Mollie Robinson, 8, Oliver Jay, 7, Joe Rowley, 9, Connor Palmer, 9, Katie Noakes, 8, Hollie Miller, 8, Elijah Rice, 7, Riley Brown, 7, and Jodine Leach, 7.

Picture: Richard Patterson 613571.

Sporty pupils take home top tournament awards



PUPILS at a local primary school have been crowned as local athletics champions for the third year running. Kedington Primary

School pupils Jessica Thomas, 8, Mollie Robinson, 8, Oliver Jay, 7, Joe Rowley, 9, Connor Palmer, 9, Katie Noakes, 8, Hollie Miller, 8, Elijah

Rice, 7, Riley Brown, 7 and Jodine Leach, 7, received a trophy and individual medals for their success. The Kedington team first triumphed at a tournament

for all the primary schools in their cluster, including Hurdon and Wickhambrook. They then went on to compete against Burton

End Primary School, the winners of a similar event for all the Haverhill schools, and came out overall winners by just one point.

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Hospital's warning over abuse of staff

REVELLERS have been urged to treat staff at West Suffolk Hospital with dignity and respect this Christmas – or face prosecution.

The hospital has issued a warning that violent or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated.

The trust has issued the plea in the run up to the festive season, which traditionally sees an increase in the number of people visiting the hospital under the influence of alcohol.

Under the hospital's zero tolerance policy, action will be taken against anyone who abuses or

BY JO DEEKS

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assaults members of staff.

A number of additional security measures are also in place at the site, with panic alarms located in sensitive areas including A&E, the central delivery suite and the X-ray department.

PCSO Liz Lake, who is based at the hospital, regularly patrols the site and buildings, while CCTV systems are also in place.

Jan Bloomfield, executive director of workforce and communications at the trust, said: "It's important to remember that while many of us are having fun

with family and friends over the Christmas period, not everyone is on holiday. As such, I would urge everyone using the hospital to treat our staff with the respect and gratitude that they deserve.

"The festive period is one of the busiest of the year for our dedicated A&E staff, who can often find themselves subjected to violence and abuse from the very people they are trying to help.

"We take the safety of our staff extremely seriously and will not tolerate aggression against them. Should such incidents occur, we will take action against the offenders and prosecute through the courts if necessary."

Council plea to keep eye on neighbours

AS temperatures drop, Haverhill residents are being asked to keep an eye out for elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

Suffolk's adult care services team is sending out the message to check on neighbours during the colder Christmas, New Year and winter period.

Classic signs that someone is in difficulties are

mail or newspapers hanging out of the letterbox, milk bottles left on the doorstep uncollected, a house in darkness when there should be someone at home and curtains remaining closed during the day.

Anyone with concerns about an elderly or vulnerable person living nearby, should knock on

the door to check they are alright.

If it snows, check if older people can get to the shops and have what they need in the house. Encourage people to use their heating, and make sure that driveways and steps are ice free. If you have serious concerns, contact the emergency services

Cllr Colin Noble, portfolio holder for adult and community services, said: "The festive and winter period is a time when many older people are at their most vulnerable.

"We would urge anyone with elderly relatives, friends or neighbours to look out for them, help out and make sure they are not lonely."



Converted: Don and Kusum are enjoying a new way of keeping fit at Haverhill Leisure Centre. Picture: Keith Jones 617154.

OAPs jump in for free swim

SWIMMERS young and old have been taking the plunge for the first time since new free swim sessions were introduced at their local pool.

More than 4,200 people have taken advantage of free swimming, and lessons, available at Haverhill Leisure Centre over the last six months.

Kusum and Don Karunadasa, both in their 70s and from Linton, had never learnt to swim until they took advantage of free swimming lessons.

Don said: "We did feel a bit shy at first because we were both non-swimmers but once you get into the water and get started that all goes away."

"We have seen a definite improvement in our health and it really doesn't matter if you are young or old, you can always

BY JO DEEKS

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

learn new skills."

Michelina Parioti, 70, from Haverhill, said: "I heard about the free lessons on a visit to the gym and was hesitant at first because I had previously had a knee replacement."

"I did the free six-week course in August and enjoyed it so much that I then paid for further lessons. My instructor, Mary, was brilliant and the lessons have given me lots of self-confidence, plus my GP thinks it's great."

Casual swimming is available free for all those aged 16 or under and the over 60s for just a £2 registration fee until 2011. It is part of a Government-funded initiative to entice people back to the pool.

Swimmers still have a chance to register for the scheme, which

will be running for another 18 months.

Dominic Greenwood, general manager at Haverhill Leisure Centre, said: "We have been delighted by the response to our free swimming scheme and hope that more people in the Haverhill area will take advantage of free swimming, free lessons, and poolside instructors in the coming months."

"Swimming is not only fun but a healthy and relaxing activity which is also excellent for those returning to exercise after a break because of ill health or inactivity."

If you are under 16 or over 60 and want to sign up to the free swimming scheme, phone (01440) 702548, visit the Haverhill Leisure Centre for an application form, or go to www.acleisure.com

Free swimming courses start in January and February.

Young vandal attacks parked car

A YOUTH broke both mirrors off a parked car.

The blue Rover 214 was parked in Woodcock Close, Haverhill, when the incident happened.

The youth, who was seen

running off, is described as white and between 5ft 8in and 5ft 10in tall.

He was slim and wearing a black hooded top and jeans.

Anyone with inform-

ation about the incident, which happened at around 1.25am on Tuesday, should call Pc Ian Davies at Haverhill Police on (01284) 774100 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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At the same time, we are constantly looking to improve our title and are always happy to hear from you with suggestions and comments.

If you have any feedback for us then please contact the relevant person or people listed below.

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WEEKLY NEWS LETTERS

Send your letters to: The Editor, Haverhill Weekly News, 4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF, or by email to editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

Thank you all for support

Sir, As 2009 is coming to an end, we would like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone who has supported Marie Curie Cancer Care's Suffolk Nursing Appeal. We are so grateful for the generous support from members of the public and our dedicated volunteers, who help us to raise the vital funds needed to continue reaching those who need our nurses the most. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Further to this, we want to say a special thank you to the 38 Marie Curie nurses in Suffolk, who provide a free nursing service for people who want to be cared for at home at the end of their lives. Our nurses are also there for families and carers, providing practical and emotional support at what can be an exhausting time. They work 365 days a year, meaning that many of them will be working on Christmas day and all throughout the holiday season. Once again thank you to everyone. With your support, we look forward to making a difference in 2010. To find out more about the Marie Curie Nursing Service in Suffolk visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/suffolk or call the local fundraising office on 01284 747385.

The Fundraising Team
 Marie Curie Cancer Care

Bus link home ends too early

Sir, Further to the transport debate, I've had to cancel three hospital appointments because buses back to Haverhill from Cambridge stop running so early. Visitors must think we're a Deep South hick town, a day's horse ride from anywhere.

Mick McNulty
 Witherfield Road
 Haverhill

MEMORIES



■ THIS week's picture, taken from our archives, shows Santa welcoming children to a special event. Do you recognise anyone in the picture or know what the event was? Do you know where and when it was taken? Send your answers to: Memories, Haverhill Weekly News, 4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF by Tuesday morning, or email editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

Picture: 616108.

Last week's Memories photograph, from our archives, showed Haverhill Rotary Club welcoming a new member. It was taken in March, 1986.

Picture: 611012.



LETTERS POLICY

Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication. Full name and address must be supplied and details will be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited.

Please email your letters to editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk Alternatively write to: Letters to the Editor, Haverhill Weekly News, 4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF



Boxing clever: Henry Wilson, from Haverhill Food Bank, receives the collection from Castle Hill pupils. CP.

Pupils help to make a difference at Christmas

PUPILS at Castle Hill Community Middle School have answered the call to help ensure hard-up families can put food on the table this Christmas. They were challenged to see who could collect the most food for the Haverhill Food Bank.

Henry Wilson, from the food bank visited the school to talk about the work they do. It was then that Mrs Baldwin, community cohesion team leader at Castle Hill, invited the charity to take part in the school's Make a Difference week.

Of the school's four house teams, Wilsey and Hamlet

managed to collect the most items.

Year 7 and 8 pupils handed over more than 200 items of food to Mr Wilson last week, just in time for the food to be included in Christmas food boxes.

The challenge was just one of many charity events that Castle Hill has undertaken this year, raising around £2,000 for charities such as Guide Dogs for the Blind, Children in Need, Genes for Genes and the NSPCC.

Mrs Baldwin thanked the pupils for their efforts.



Riding out: Margaret and Arthur Pleasant.

616014.

Surprise for couple

A COUPLE celebrating their silver wedding anniversary got a surprise treat when they travelled in style to a celebration lunch by horse and cart.

Margaret Pleasant, 85, and husband Arthur, 87, live at the Eastcotts Nursing Home at Calford Green. They previously lived at Kedington and returned to their former local the White Horse

pub to celebrate their anniversary.

Lorraine Owers, who works at the home and helps care for the couple, arranged the special transport.

She said: "They lived in Kedington and were married at Kedington Church. She is a really lovely lady. She was quite overwhelmed when she saw it. They both really enjoyed the ride."

Support 'still strong' to revive old rail link

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to restore Haverhill's rail link are renewing their efforts after receiving plenty of positive feedback on a recent visit to the town.

Members of the Cambridge to Sudbury Rail Renewal Association set up a stall in the High Street and handed out more than 450 leaflets to residents setting out their case.

The group has previously gathered a 12,000-signature petition from Haverhill and Sudbury residents in support of a rail link and 73 per

BY JO DEEKS

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

cent of those questioned said they would use a rail service between Haverhill and Cambridge.

The old railway line closed in 1967 and the Association of Train Operating Companies estimates restoring it could cost around £120million.

The Reverend Malcolm Hill, chairman of the Rail Renewal Association said: "We wanted to make a fresh effort to present the case for

renewal of the rail link, especially between Haverhill and Cambridge, and to discover whether people still supported the project.

"More than 450 leaflets setting out the reasons for a revival were given out to members of the public and scores of conversations with them revealed as much support as on previous occasions.

"We are encouraged to put the case afresh to the government and rail authorities."

The association will hold its next meeting on February 11 at 7.30pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre.

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Top design: Roxanna Grzeszczyk, 13, with Alison Findlay from the Royal Horticultural Society. Below, Gerson Fautino, 12, and Matti Kaminski, 12.

Pupils star in decoration session

PUPILS and their parents joined forces to make some green Christmas decorations at a middle school.



Alison Findlay, from the Royal Horticultural Society's Campaign for School Gardening went along to Castle Hill Middle School in Haverhill to lead a willow workshop, making stars and heart-shaped decorations.

The event was for 20 pupils with English as an additional language and co-ordinator Nicola Boddey said: "I am really pleased with how the children worked together with parents from different cultures. The final pieces were really impressive."

Pupil Mattie Kaminski said: "I really enjoyed using the willow, then covering it in glitter."

Classmate Gerson Faustino said: "It was great working with my mum on a willow star, we were able to help each other."

A spokesman for Castle Hill said the school was working hard to promote community cohesion and plans to organise more joint events for pupils and parents in future.

Stay safe and stay seen with police wristbands

PARTYGOERS are to be given reflective wristbands by police to help make sure they get home safely after a night out.

The wristbands are being given out over Christmas and the New Year, as part of Suffolk Constabulary's Staysafe campaign.

Police say the aim of Stay-safe is to reduce alcohol-related disorder in town centres across the county, and some of the key messages are:

- Don't overdo it;
- Friends should stick together; and
- Make sure you get home safely.

Officers spent this week giving out the wristbands at pubs, clubs and bars. The bands are in reflective white and yellow and will help people to be seen by passing traffic as they make their way home from a night out.

Pc Gary Pinyoun, St Ed-

mundsbury licensing officer said: "We want everyone to enjoy Christmas and New Year safely, and we will be working closely with licensed premises to ensure this happens.

"The wristbands are a simple, fun way of getting people to think about getting home safely, and helping drivers to spot pedestrians in the dark."

Door staff at all licensed premises will also be joining in the reflective theme.

PC Pinyoun added: "We have been working with door staff to ensure they all wear reflective jackets so they are identifiable.

"Some premises have it as a condition of their license that door staff must wear them, but we have encouraged all of them to have reflective jackets so they can be easily recognised by members of the public, CCTV operators and police.

"It helps them stay safe and means people can immediately spot someone who may be able to assist them if help is required."

Call to nominate dedicated carers

INDIVIDUALS who give outstanding care can be nominated for this year's Suffolk Dignity in Care awards.

Local people are being encouraged to nominate adult social care staff, carers and support workers for demonstrating outstanding care and making a difference to people's lives.

Cllr Colin Noble, Suffolk County Council's portfolio holder for adult and community services said: "These awards are a brilliant way of recognising the hard work of our staff in the many different roles across adult social care. They represent an important opportunity for local people as well as staff to tell us when they have received a good service and when an individual or team has gone the extra mile to demonstrate dignity in care."

The deadline for nominations is January, 15, 2010, with the awards set to be presented in the spring.

Nomination forms are available from www.suffolkas.org, phone Hannah Wyatt on (01473) 264674 or email hannah.wyatt@suffolk.gov.uk

Thieves with truck steal scrap metal

SCRAP metal was stolen from near an outbuilding at Clare Road, Poslingford, between noon and 2pm on Tuesday, December 15.

Police are appealing for information and say it would have required a truck or lorry to transport the metal away.

Calls in relation to this incident should be made to Sgt Kevin Horton at the St Edmundsbury Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team on (01284) 774100 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Fire crews fight car blaze

A **CAR** fire near a superstore sparked a call out for firefighters. One crew from Haverhill was called to the rear of Dove Road near the town's Tesco store at 5.15am on Tuesday, December 15.

They found the car well alight and brought the fire under control by 5.50am.

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Sat 9am – 6pm, Sun 11am – 5pm.



Wickhambrook Primary School

616225

Kedington Primary School

614416



New Cangle Community Primary School

616079

Youngsters tell the story of Christmas

IN the run up to Christmas youngsters in the region have been taking part in nativity plays and shows, performing in front of parents, teachers, friends and relatives.

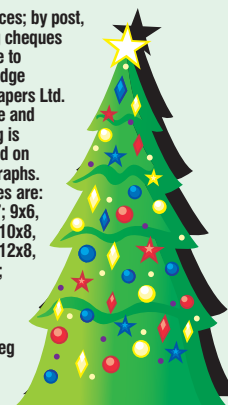
Here is a selection of photographs marking the efforts of the children's celebrations of the festive season.

To order any of the photographs you need to quote the reference number and choose your method of payment.

Orders can be placed in the following ways: Visit www.cambridge-news.co.uk; phone (01223) 434207; visit

our offices; by post, making cheques payable to Cambridge Newspapers Ltd. Postage and packing is included on photographs.

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7x5, £7; 9x6, £7.50; 10x8, £8.50; 12x8, £10.50; 15x10, £15; 18x12, £20; jpeg image, £25.



Clements Primary School

615639



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Warning to watch out for loan sharks

WHAT may seem like a good deal can quickly turn into a nightmare if you fall victim to a loan shark – otherwise known as an illegal money lender, or doorstep lender.

They will typically charge huge sums for their illegal service – the highest recorded annual interest rate was an astronomical 117,000 per cent.

And if you can't pay up, they can get violent.

The illegal money lending team at East of England Trading Standards are issuing a warning to customers to be aware of the perils of borrowing from such sources.

A spokesman said: "Although they appear friendly at first, when their 'clients' struggle to pay they can become violent."

"As money 'owed' to a loan shark is not legally enforceable they frequently resort to intimidation and violence to get back what they think they are owed."

So what are the tell-tale signs when trying to spot an illegal money lender? The government's Stop Loan Sharks project highlights a number of things to look out for.

"Loan sharks tend to operate in a small community and will start out being friendly and offering to help with financial problems," said the spokesman.

"They rarely offer any paperwork and if they get their clients to sign a document the client will rarely get a copy. They can often randomly add fees to the amount owed."

Marie-Claire Berreen, Barclays community investment manager, said: "Research shows that many people who encounter loan sharks would consider them to be a friend. This means that many people don't know they are borrowing from a loan shark."

"There are many ways to borrow money affordably and legally such as credit unions. Credit unions are financial co-operatives owned and controlled by their members."

As Christmas spending begins to take its toll on our finances, a quick fix loan can seem tempting – but could you recognise when this offer was coming from a loan shark? As part of our Barclays Money Skills

BARCLAYS

money skills

partnership, designed to help readers make the most of their money, ANNA CROALL spoke to trading standards experts about the problem.

They offer savings and great value loans plus they are local, ethical and know what their members want.

"If you're unsure where to get help with a loan, seek help from an impartial money advice service or Citizen's Advice Bureau before making your decision."

The Stop Loan Sharks team operates a 24/7 confidential hotline on 0300 555 2222 or visit www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks to access information to help you to manage your money.

Email reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk or text: 'loan (space) shark (space) + your message' to 60003. Anyone threatened by a loan shark should also contact the police.

For information on Cambridge City Credit Union, visit www.cambridgecreditunion.org.uk or call (01223) 314664.

Remember loved ones

MEMORIAL Christmas trees have been set up for people to remember loved ones who have died.



Funeral homes operated by The Co-operative Funeralcare are providing memorial Christmas trees and inviting local people to call in and decorate them with memorial cards in memory of those close to them who have died.

Roller goes from field

A YELLOW Bomag tarmac roller was stolen from a field off the B1063 road near Clare.

The theft occurred sometime between 3pm on Wednesday, December 9 and 8.05am the following day.

Calls in relation to this incident should be made to Sgt Kevin Horton at the St Edmundsbury Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team on (01284) 774100 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Thieves torch stolen car

A RED Vauxhall Astra stolen from Falcon Close in Haverhill was later found burned out on the old railway line near Dove House Road.

Thieves stole the car sometime between 10.30pm on Monday, December 14 and 7.30am the following day.

Calls in relation to this incident should be made to Pc Cheryl Claydon at Haverhill Police on (01284) 774100 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Power tools taken

POWER tools were stolen from a Peugeot Expert van which had been broken into when thieves damaging a lock.

The incident took place at Ash Grove, Haverhill, between 10am and 2pm on Monday, December 14.

Calls in relation to this incident should be made to the Crime Investigation Bureau (CIB) on (01473) 613500 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Mohammad has after horrors of

As he said goodbye to his mother, Mohammad Razai felt a strange mixture of emotions. Knowing he might never see her again, the 15-year-old struggled to hold back the tears. But he was excited too: he was finally escaping Afghanistan.

The country may have borne him, but it had also made his life a misery – he had lost his father, his home and his self-respect to the place. And now he couldn't wait to leave.

"It was your worst nightmare," explains Mohammad. "It had got to the point where I literally couldn't go outside. As a young guy I was very much at risk of abduction and sexual abuse; the Taliban had a reputation for that . . ."

"So my mother arranged to have me smuggled out: I wore a burkha to cross into Pakistan, then used a fake passport to fly to Vienna, then France and finally to England. I was really upset to be leaving my mother behind, yes, and it was scary. But I

BY ALICE RYAN

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

also couldn't wait to get away."

Since arriving in England, eight years ago now, Mohammad's life has changed beyond all recognition. Granted asylum, he went on to study for GCSEs, A-levels and a degree; now a British citizen, he's doing a post-grad in medicine at Cambridge University.

"When I was in Afghanistan I didn't have a burning ambition," he reflects. "It was a basic day-to-day survival mentality; I didn't look to the future."

"Now I really want to do something useful, to do some good in the world. And I want to show people that asylum seekers are human beings with the same feelings, the same experiences, the same ambitions and dreams as everyone else."

Mohammad was born in Kabul in the winter of 1986. "I don't know my actual birthday," he admits, with a wry little smile. "Our family home was destroyed during the civil war in Afghanistan in the early 1990s, and with it a lot of

documents . . . My mother is illiterate – she wasn't allowed to go to school – and she doesn't know the exact date."

"When I arrived in England they asked me how old I was and I said 'About 15'; because I needed a date of birth, they put down January 1, so that's my birthday now."

When he was just a year old, Mohammad's father was imprisoned by the then Marxist government. At the time, Afghanistan was under Soviet control, and Mohammad's dad had been found in possession of anti-Russian propaganda – deemed a seditious offence.

"To start with my father wouldn't admit to anything," explains the 24-year-old. "Then my mother and I were imprisoned too; that made him admit to many things . . ."

"We were on the same corridor as my father: my mother says she could hear his cough from our cell. After his admission they released us and she was given the chance to see her husband one last time. She said no because she thought that seeing her in such a bad state would really upset him; I

think she's regretted that ever since."

Moved to a vast prison just east of Kabul, known as Pul-e-Charkhi, Mohammad's father wrote as often as he could. With no access to proper pens and paper, his letters arrived on toilet paper and pieces of tissue. "All apart from his last letter, which came about eight months after he was imprisoned," says Mohammad. "He'd been given pen and paper and allowed to write to us: he said his destiny was certain and he was prepared for execution."

In the wake of her husband's death, Mohammad's mother fell into a deep depression. "My childhood was very troubled," he continues. "I was taught never to trust anyone, not to do anything or go anywhere, not to do anything a normal kid would do, basically. My mum wouldn't even let me fly a kite, which is something almost all the kids do in Kabul. I can still remember sitting on the roof of our house and seeing a sea of kites in the sky . . ."

The tradition of kite flying in Kabul was made famous by the 2003 novel *The Kite*



Proud citizen: Mohammad is now studying medicine at Cambridge.

614728

Don't miss the Cambridge News all next week for our fantastic review of the decade

Relive the highs and lows of the noughties in our five-part special report



a new life Afghanistan

Runner. The book, written by Khaled Hosseini, tells the tale of two little boys, one from a privileged background and the other a servant; the servant boy, from the Persian-speaking Hazara (the country's third-largest ethnic group), becomes a target for bullies, who taunt and then rape him.

"I too was bullied for being Hazara," admits Mohammad. "Hazara was like a swear word, the worst thing you could be. *The Kite Runner* is the only book I know of which paints an accurate picture of the huge amount of racism in Afghanistan: I can see a very strong parallel between growing up as a Jew in Nazi Germany and growing up as a Hazara in Kabul.

"I was bullied verbally all the time and I got a beating quite often too. So I didn't progress much at school – I could barely write my name.

"I can still remember how much I hated being Hazara. That self-hate probably did more damage than any physical bullying."

Despite the disadvantage of coming from a Hazara background, Mohammad's father had been a very successful businessman. He left a lot of wealth behind him, including a flour mill, but it was all confiscated by the Russian regime. All that was left was the family home, an impressive 15-bedroom mansion – and that was destroyed during the civil war, which broke out in the early 1990s.

"We were literally living in a war zone: there were rockets going off and bullet holes all over the place," remembers Mohammad. Forced to leave Kabul for Pakistan, by the time the family returned home their house was a shell.

"My mother married my uncle because to grow up without a father in Afghanistan is the worst possible scenario," explains Mohammad. "I don't have any memories of my real father at all, only the photos that survived when the house was destroyed. I used to feel very angry, but as you grow up you get used to things."

After another spell living outside the city, Mohammad's family

returned and, for a while, at least, life was peaceful. "It didn't last long, because that's when the Taliban took over," he continues, "and that was worse than the Communist period, worse even than the civil war."

When one of Mohammad's uncles suddenly disappeared, his mother decided her beloved son would have to be sent away to safety. "He was killed," says Mohammad, matter of factly. "And that made it all seem much more real: here was proof that the Taliban really do just kill people."

Thanks to a family friend, Mohammad's path to England was secured. Smuggled over the border into Pakistan disguised as a woman, face covered by a burkha, he made the rest of the journey using a fake passport. Accompanied by his young cousin, the son of his murdered uncle, Mohammad admits it was a frightening experience. "I'd never flown before, so that was a shock," he says. "And I spoke almost no English, just enough to say my name, really."

On arriving in England, Mohammad was placed in foster care. His older half-brother (his father's son from an earlier marriage) had already sought refuge in the UK after being taken in for "questioning" by the Taliban several times; social services tracked him down to London, then placed both him and Mohammad in care.

"More than anything I wanted to go to school: my mum really wanted me to do something with my life," explains Mohammad. "I couldn't get a place for a few months, so I took a job in a pizza place and delivered leaflets for a bit. I had a lot of trouble just getting from one place to another though; it was all so different."

Thanks to an "amazing" social worker, Mohammad was given a place at school, complete with a Persian-speaking mentor. After doing an IT course, he went on to take GCSEs and then A-levels at a London college. Winning a place to study science at University College London, he left with

honours.

"I wanted to do medicine but everyone said it was so difficult and competitive, never mind applying to Cambridge," explains Mohammad. "But I was really motivated to become a doctor for several reasons: as a Hazara, I wanted to prove I could achieve something; having felt useless for so long, I wanted to do something useful; and, having witnessed so much destruction and suffering in my early childhood, I wanted to make a positive difference to people's lives."

After attending a summer school at St John's College, Mohammad says his perspective on both studying medicine and applying to Cambridge changed. "I met a Sikh student doing medicine," he explains, "and he told me: 'If you want to do it, you can'."

Now in his second year at St Edmund's, Mohammad is throwing himself into student life. He's taken up rowing and French, is acting as a university ambassador (encouraging students from all backgrounds to apply) and, raised a Muslim, he does a lot of inter-faith work. "I want to build bridges between people of all faiths," he says. "I hate all hostility and violence."

Mohammad says he's happier now than he ever believed possible. "I went back to see my mother for the first time last year," adds Mohammad. "I was so, so happy to see her and the rest of the family, but it didn't feel like I was going home. I became a British citizen two years ago and it was a great feeling: it gives me a warm feeling in my heart. I am very much in debt to this country, this whole society; Britain made me so welcome."

"There are a lot of things that I still carry with me which, sometimes, I do find hard to cope with," Mohammad concludes. "I do get upset quite quickly and I find criticism devastating; it makes me feel like a failure all over again. But with time it does get easier. You have to be positive. And you have to believe that anything is possible."

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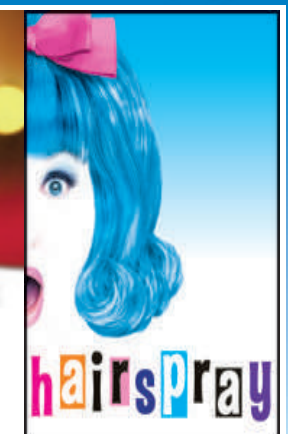
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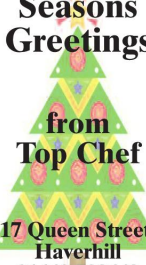


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Where there's a will there's . . . hospice cash

A STAGGERING £26,545 has been donated to St Nicholas Hospice Care from Wills Weeks 2009.

The annual scheme sees local solicitors forfeit their usual fees for drawing up wills, in exchange for a donation to the charity.

This year 15 solicitors from across West Suffolk and Thetford took part in June and

gave their time for free, with more than 175 wills prepared or existing ones revised.

Among them was Tom Harrison, from Adams Harrison in Haverhill, who received a certificate from Margaret Lee, the hospice's legacy promotions office (pictured above), acknowledging his efforts. Ms Lee said: "We have

simply been blown away by the amount raised through Wills Week in 2009. The amount raised actually doubled what we did in 2008 and that was an exceptional total in itself.

"We are so grateful to everyone who supported the initiative and to all the local solicitors who gave up their time so freely."



Computer firm pulls plug on rural office

A SOFTWARE development company which has experienced rapid expansion is set to move into new larger offices in Haverhill.

HET Software Ltd will shift its UK head office from Great Wrattling to Weavers Mill in Haverhill's town centre early next year.

The company has experienced a growth in turnover of around 35 per cent per for the past two years and staff numbers have increased as a result.

Expansion at the firm's existing site was considered, but bosses said moving from a rural to an urban location would be more

BY JO DEEKS

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

beneficial as it offered a more central location, decreased risk of disruption to power supplies and improved communications, specifically broadband provision.

HET Software, founded in 1993, develops solutions specifically for organisations involved in the provision of home care and supported living, with 500 clients and 50 people employed in the UK, Australia and Malaysia.

John Mayhew, chief executive, said: "Some of the services we provide to our clients are business critical. In fact, they can mean the difference between life

and death for the vulnerable people being cared for by our clients.

"For this reason it is imperative that we consider how to make our technical systems as robust and reliable as possible. Moving to an urban location is just one of the steps we are taking to achieve this objective.

"Our new offices at Weavers Mill will provide double the amount of space that we currently have - 4,000 square feet on three floors.

"We will now be in a position to allocate more space to key departments. We have recently recruited an additional eight people to our sales team so the extra space will prove useful."

Safety alert over dodgy hot water bottles

POTENTIALLY lethal electric hot water bottles were seized in a consignment stopped from entering the country, but Suffolk Trading Standards officers are concerned

that more may be in circulation.

Reg Ruffles, Suffolk's assistant county trading standards officer, said "People may use these items thinking they are

safe but they may receive an electric shock if the product leaks.

"Our tests on the water bottles, stopped at Felixstowe, show that the product does not meet

safety requirements, as electrodes are used to directly heat the water."

If you have purchased an electric hot water bottle, call (01473) 264 859.

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THE GUIDE

- All your Christmas TV viewing at a glance
– Pages 21 & 22
- Test your knowledge, word skills and try our Sudoku challenge
– Page 23

Craig living his dream in amazing technicolour

CRAIG Chalmers can't stop smiling. Even when he's belting out *Any Dream Will Do* with a cast of dotting schoolchildren at his side, he can't help but flash those bright pearly whites at his adoring fans.

It is plainly obvious that two years on from winning the starring role in Bill Kenwright's *Joseph* and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Craig is still living his dream, on stage, every night.

"It's crazy how much life has changed since I was playing those dingy clubs back in Scotland!" he says, as we chat.

"It's just nice that I've got my break and been able to make a success of it because I always had fears I might have been a disaster and the critics might not have liked me. Anything could have gone wrong, or maybe I couldn't have coped with the demands of the schedule. You know it's a hard job to do, so I'm delighted that I've managed to make such a good run of it."

Prior to getting his big break on the BBC reality show *Any Dream Will Do*, Edinburgh-born singer Craig had tried pretty much every avenue to get into showbusiness. The 27-year-old, who says he could sing before he could talk, had performed with male strip troupe G-Force, delighting ladies'

LOUISE CUMMINGS finds Craig Chalmers happy to bring his 'manly Joseph' – and famed pearly whites – to Cambridge

nights and holiday park crowds. He'd had a top 10 hit with the boy band No Reason, performing alongside the likes of Blue, McFly, Sugababes and Girls Aloud. Craig even got into the last 30 for the reality show *Pop Idol*, which was eventually won by Michelle McManus.

"I'd been trying to break into the business for years," he recalls. "I've played dingy clubs on nights when it's been peeing with rain and no-one wants to know, and you wonder why you even bothered. But you just have to keep trying because for every one of me, there's thousands of others that want to do the same thing. You just need the right person to see you and believe in you."

For Craig, that person was renowned West End producer Bill Kenwright, a judge on the show *Any Dream Will Do*, who championed the Scottish star, even though, with no musical training, he was the underdog. Craig recalls: "I was banging my head against a brick wall in the mid-part of the show but Bill took me away by myself to the theatre – and helped me to turn around my performance. He's really taken me under his wing and mentored me."

Although Lee Mead went on to win the series and, with it, the

starring role in the West End show *Joseph*, it wasn't long before Craig was reunited with his coat of many colours when Bill decided his protégé was perfect to play Joseph in his touring version of the show he calls his 'juggernaut of joy'.

Craig still remembers the opening night nerves. "That first night was something else," he says with a slight shudder. "I can remember it very well. It was pretty scary at the time, but it's good now to have two years' experience under my belt and be able to not be so nervous these days, which means I can express myself, relax and enjoy it a lot more."

Clearly, the singer has grown into the role and critics have had nothing but praise for his performances, with Craig being dubbed a "dream Joseph", and the *Independent* describing the show as a "deliriously droll, technicolor triumph".

Cambridgeshire folk have the chance to judge for themselves this Christmas as the show, which retells the Biblical story of Joseph, his 11 brothers and the coat of many colours, is running at the Corn Exchange for three-weeks.

So how is Craig different from previous Josephs, played by Phillip Schofield, Jason Donovan or Darren

Day?

"I like to think I'm quite a manly Joseph," Craig smiles. "I think of him as quite a physical Joseph because I'm a bit of a lad really. I'm not the theatre lovey type, so it's not really like a prissy Joseph."

"I just try to amplify my own personality in the character so there is cheek and charisma in there!"

Craig and his girlfriend Jennifer Smith, who drives up and down the country at the weekends to see him, recently got engaged and are planning a wedding next year.

Craig's contract with *Joseph* finishes in July, and, with his wedding in September, he says it seems the perfect time to bow out gracefully. "It's been an amazing experience, from the TV show through to selling out the Edinburgh Playhouse for six weeks that first Christmas, which was a record-breaking run. Things like that you reflect on and it means so much."



■ Joseph and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Cambridge Corn Exchange, until Sunday, January 3. Times and prices vary. Contact: (01223) 357 851 or visit www.cornex.co.uk

Coat of many colours: Craig Chalmers, appearing at the Cambridge Corn Exchange during the festive season.

Leisure or events news? email john.ellul@cambridge-news.co.uk phone (01799) 522218

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SUNDAY



BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.
7.50 Match of the Day.
9.15 **FILM: Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron (2002).** Animated adventure.
10.30 **FILM: Paulie (1998).** Family adventure.
11.55 **BBC News; Weather for the Week Ahead.**
12.05 **EastEnders.** Omnibus.
3.05 **FILM: Chicken Run (2000).** Animated comedy, with the voices of Mel Gibson and Julia Sawalha.
4.25 **Songs of Praise.** New Year celebrations in Edinburgh.
5.00 **Weakest Link.**
6.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**
6.30 **Comic Relief: The Net Result.** Celebrities help to distribute mosquito nets in Uganda.
7.30 **Celebrity Mastermind.**
8.00 **Casualty.** The trainees are hailed as heroes and May finally feels like a doctor after saving the victims of a car accident.
9.00 **Cranford.**
10.30 **Outnumbered Christmas Special.** Festive edition of the family comedy. It is Boxing Day in the Brockman household and Santa has paid a visit - along with some burglars.
11.10 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**
11.30 **FILM: American Flyers (1985)** Drama, starring Kevin Costner and David Grant.

BBC2

- 6.00 Me Too!
6.20 Big Cook Little Cook.
6.40 Brum.
6.55 Pingu.
7.00 Uncle Max.
7.15 Oogies.
7.30 Frank Patrol.
8.00 Shaun the Sheep.
8.15 What's New Scooby-Doo?
8.35 The Basil Brush Show.
9.00 Bear Behaving Badly.
9.25 Dani's House.
10.00 Animal Park.
10.30 The Pixar Story.
11.55 **FILM: Gigi (1958).** Musical about a French girl who is taught how to be the mistress of a wealthy magnate. Starring Leslie Caron.
1.45 **Campion.**
3.35 **Coast.**
4.35 **FILM: The Heroes of Telemark (1965).** Based on the Norwegian resistance's efforts to destroy a Nazi heavy-water plant. World War Two thriller.
6.45 **James May's Toy Stories.**
7.45 **Top Gear Bolivia Special.** The team uses second-hand 4x4s to negotiate the Amazon basin and reach Chile.
9.00 **Steve Coogan: The Inside Story.** Profile of the character comedian.
10.00 **Knowing Me, Knowing You - With Alan Partridge.**
10.45 **Match of the Day 2.** Including Arsenal v Aston Villa.
11.35 **I'm Alan Partridge.**
12.35 **QI.**

ITV

- 6.00 GMTV.
9.25 The Planet's Funniest Animals.
9.55 Coronation Street.
12.10 **FILM: Home Alone 4 (2002).** Comedy sequel.
1.50 **News and Weather.**
2.00 **Ant & Dec's Christmas Show.**
3.15 **FILM: The Scorpion King (2002).** Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson.
5.00 **News and Weather.**
5.30 **Harry Hill's TV Burp Review of the Year.** Memorable small-screen moments from 2009.
6.00 **Dancing on Ice: The Story of Bolero with Torvill and Dean.** Documentary originally shown to mark the 25th anniversary of the performance that won Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean gold at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.
7.00 **Midsomer Murders.** A fatal explosion at a haulage yard proves a difficult case for Barnaby, whose suspects include several Territorial Army soldiers and a grieving mother.
9.00 **FILM: The Holiday (2006).** Two recently single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to a house exchange over the Christmas holidays. Romantic comedy.
11.35 **ITV News and Weather.**
11.50 **FILM: Mermaids (1990).** Romantic comedy, starring Cher and Winona Ryder.
1.40 **Premiership Rugby Union.**

CHANNEL 4

- 6.25 The Treacle People.
6.35 Yo Gabba Gabba.
7.00 Ocean Race.
7.55 The Great Swim Series.
8.55 **T4: Friends.** Joey's remarks to a fan magazine could lead to him losing his acting role.
9.25 **T4: Friends.**
9.55 **T4: Chipmunk: T4 Special.**
10.30 **T4: Hollyoaks.**
1.30 **T4: 90210.**
2.35 **T4: Friends.**
3.10 **T4: 4Music Favourites: Black Eyed Peas.**
3.45 **T4: The Simpsons.** Homer tries to set Principal Skinner up with Marge's sister Selma.
4.20 **T4: The Simpsons.**
4.50 **FILM: Crocodile Dundee II (1988).** Comedy. Paul Hogan returns as Mick 'Crocodile' Dundee, using his bush skills to save his journalist girlfriend (Linda Kozlowski) after she's kidnapped by a drugs baron.
6.50 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Tsunami: Where Was God?** Reconciling death and destruction with religion.
9.00 **The Greatest TV Shows of the Noughties.**
10.35 **The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2006.** Jimmy Carr is joined by celebrity contestants to take a tongue-in-cheek look at the events of 2006.
12.40 **Hits and Headlines: Christmas Number Ones 95-08.**

five

- 6.00 Sunrise.
7.00 Angels of Jarm.
7.05 Bop Box.
7.10 Fireman Sam.
7.25 Rupert Bear.
7.35 Hana's Helpline.
7.45 The WotWots.
7.55 Chiro.
8.00 Make Way for Noddy.
8.10 Adventures of Bottle Top Bill.
8.25 The Mr Men Show.
8.35 Roobarb and Custard Too.
8.45 Harry and His Bucket.
9.00 Olivia.
9.15 Little Princess.
9.35 Gerald McBoing Boing.
10.00 Shake! Snobs.
10.35 Wizards of Waverly Place.
11.10 Hannah Montana.
11.45 **A Concert for Christmas with André Rieu.**
12.30 **FILM: Alice in Wonderland (1999).** Adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic fantasy adventure, starring Tina Majorino.
3.15 **FILM: The Remains of the Day (1993).** Period drama, starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson.
5.50 **Five News.**
6.00 **Heads or Tails.**
7.00 **Mamma Mia! Where Did It All Go Right?**
8.00 **The Abba Years.**
9.00 **Thirteen: Conspiracy.**
11.45 **Bourne Identity: The True Story.**
12.45 **NFL Live.** A top game.



Outnumbered Christmas Special
BBC1 Sunday, 10.30pm



The Holiday
ITV, Sunday, 9pm

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Work off festive excess and get out in the garden

It may be cold outside, but that's no excuse for not donning your wellies and giving your garden some TLC over the festive season – working off the worst of the Christmas excesses in the process.

So says gardening guru Chris Beardshaw, award-winning designer and a regular on BBC *Gardeners' World*.

He believes you can still plant and prune shrubs and grow veg during the cooler months, and has compiled some top tips to keep gardeners busy throughout Christmas:

■ Prune grape vines:

A ruthless approach is required to keep vines in check and fruiting. On plants more than three years old, prune all of this season's growth back to within one bud of old wood to encourage fresh growth next spring, on which fruit will be carried.

■ Plant holly:

If the ground is not too hard, holly can provide valuable future resources for wildlife in your garden. The common



by Hannah Stephenson

holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, loves soil in which moisture is always present, so incorporate plenty of well-rotted compost before planting. Not only does the evergreen foliage offer good nesting sites for birds, but the flowers are rich in nectar and the berries are popular with songbirds. Remember, though, that more than one plant will be required for berries to form, as male and female flowers are carried on different plants. To be sure of berries, plant only cultivars of which the sex is known. 'Argentea Marginata' is a good female with white variegated edges and carries scarlet berries.

■ Introduce mistletoe to your garden:

It takes patience as mistletoe can sometimes take up to two

years to germinate, but it will be worth it. The most successful introductions occur where the ripe berries are taken from a mistletoe plant growing on the same host species as the one in your garden. The most common hosts include apples, lime, hawthorn and poplar. Harvest fresh berries from the mistletoe, wipe them clean of the viscous sap, and press the seed into the deep fissures of the bark of the potential host around the junction of branches and boughs. It's worth trying with several seeds, and at least two plants are required to produce berries as mistletoe can be male or female.

■ Grow carrots:

One of the real attractions of the carrot is that it can be sown from mid-winter through to autumn, so provides almost year-round cropping. For mid-winter sowings use the hardy 'Amsterdam' and 'Nantes' varieties that are labelled as 'treated', which means they have been graded and fungicide-treated to ensure effective germination. Sow thinly, 1cm deep, in any soil enriched with plenty of organic matter, then cover the seed drills with a polythene cloche to

encourage germination. Cropping can start as early as mid-spring.

■ Plant shallots

There are now no more excuses for forgetting when to plant shallots, as they are planted on the shortest day, December 21, and harvested on the longest, June 21. This only applies to sets (juvenile bulbs), but these are the most efficient way of producing a crop. Plant the bulbs with necks just below the soil surface in well-cultivated soil and in full sun, and cover with a layer of horticultural fleece till early spring to help insulate and promote growth.

■ For more information, visit www.chrisbeardshaw.com



Keep busy: by growing carrots or by keeping vines in check to help fruiting next year.



FOUR Ws

1. WHO...played Reg Holdsworth in Coronation Street?

WHAT...was the first name of the film director Orson Welles?

WHERE...in Africa is the city of Onitsha?

WHEN...was the British abstract painter Bridget Riley born?

2. WHO...won the 1958 and shared the 1980 Nobel Prize in Chemistry?

WHAT...flowering plant is also known as Queen Anne's Lace?

WHERE...in the US are the Uinta Mountains?

WHEN...was the black nationalist leader Malcolm X assassinated?

3. WHO...wrote the 1937 Broadway play *Golden Boy*?

WHAT...sea does the European river Vardar flow into?

WHERE...in Asia is the city of Oita?

WHEN...will the 2006 FIFA World Cup Final be held?

Answers: 1. Ken Morley; George; Nigeria; 1931. 2. Frederick Sanger; Wild Carrot; Utah; 1965. 3. Clifford Odets; Aegean Sea; Kyushu, Japan; 9th July.



■ Last week's solution.

Codeword

4: Can you crack the code and solve the word puzzle? Each number relates to a letter and every letter of the alphabet is used at least once.



Sudoku 80:

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once.



■ Last week's solution.

Crossword

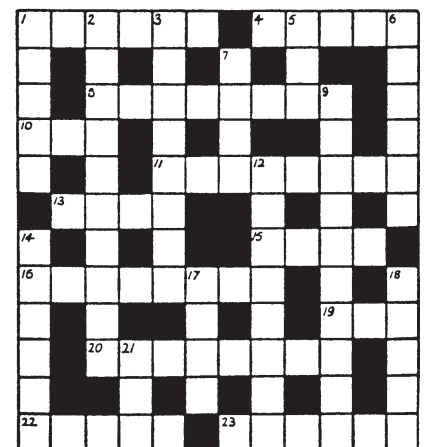
2145

Across

1. Quite attractive. (6)
4. Hate sailor with the endless fog warning. (5)
8. Telling a strange tale in a circle. (8)
10. Father starts to laugh with friend. (3)
11. Finish above a motel, perhaps. (8)
13. Fraud carried out by son by river. (4)
15. Dash from the lane – it's been disturbed. (4)
16. Puts out nothing, it's said, from Russian satellites. (8)
19. Decorate some scientific edition. (3)
20. Treatise I write on engine with pull. (8)
22. Coach for the dramatic playground. (5)
23. Came across brick carrier in the way. (6)

Down

1. Supports 22's requisites. (5)
2. Peers at tennis ground by tube station. (5,5)
3. Tail's broken, bloke needs lucky charm. (8)
5. Writer's tipped up container (3)
6. Have recourse to holiday spot. (6)



7. Good books given to German boy. (4)

9. Donate small measure thus, and recipient may take longer. (4,2,4)

12. Having good reputation, pig gets confused by trees. (8)

14. Comes out in the children. (6)

17. Long to decapitate the old crone. (4)

18. Murderous king, the man with the stick. (5)

21. Music for bad-temperedly losing this. (3)



Solution to 2144 – Across: 1. Descent; 4. Safe; 6. Average; 9. Afters; 11. Actor; 12. Litchi; 15. Averse; 18. Parts; 19. Tahiti; 21. Columbo; 23. Amen; 24. Stencil.
Down: 1. Draw apart; 2. Spectre; 3. Nag; 4. Septet; 5. Fear; 7. Arras; 8. Earl; 10. Swiss roll; 13. Impel; 14. Ceramic; 16. Raisin; 17. Eric; 20. Atom; 22. Oat.

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Aston's Cygnet

New Astra is now on sale

FIRST customers received their keys to their new Astras this week as Vauxhall celebrates the retail launch of what's set to be the best-selling British-built car in the UK.

Vauxhall dealers across the country reported a

surge of interest in the new five-door hatchback. They are now busy delivering cars to eager customers who placed their orders soon after the car went on sale in September.

With its range of five petrol and three diesel engines and a starting price of just £15,675, the

new Astra promises to reinforce its position as one of the most popular cars in its class, where it's held sway in the UK for nearly 30 years.

Featuring a powerful and rakish design and clever interior packaging that offers more occupant space and comfort than ever before, the new Astra is available in five trim levels – S, Exclusiv, SRi, SE and Elite.

All models now come with ESP, six airbags, aircon, electric windows, CD/radio with MP3 format and aux-in and electric/heated door mirrors.

But the Astra will also offer customers a range of options not normally found in this class. AFL

(Adaptive Forward Lighting) offers drivers nine headlight functions that automatically adapt to road conditions, while the addition of FlexRide brings a choice of three suspension settings which drivers can manually control or leave for the car to select automatically.

The Astra's engine efficiency has improved by over 13 per cent on the outgoing range, meaning not just cleaner emissions, but also a reduction in fuel costs, VED and Benefit in Kind tax for fleet users. Petrol engines range from an 85bhp 1.4-litre to a 1.6-litre turbocharged unit producing 177bhp, while diesels span from 108 to 158bhp in either 1.7 CDTi or 2.0 CDTi form.

City car, luxury specification

ASTON Martin has released the first official images of the 'Cygnet' – a new luxury commuter concept car.

The Cygnet concept represents a creative, environmentally conscious solution, being small, yet with presence – and highly fuel efficient, now combined with the prestige of

Aston Martin's luxury brand ownership.

Work on the concept is ongoing and will continue into 2010 when it is hoped that it will become a production reality initially available to Aston Martin customers in the UK and Europe.



Powerful addition: The new Vauxhall Astra.



Inside the Aston Martin Cygnet: Guaranteed comfort.

Helping you find your car – visit www.haverhillweeklynews.co.uk/drive

Freelander 2 Sport ready

HERE'S the Freelander 2 Sport, which goes on sale in the UK next month.

In showrooms early next year, the Freelander 2 Sport will be available with two derivatives and two colours – Santorini Black and Lago Grey. Both will feature exclusive 19-inch limited edition diamond-turned alloy-wheels, a unique two-tone interior together with a rear spoiler, colour-keyed

exterior trim and matching door handles and mirror casings.

There is a standard model available in both Black and Lago Grey with cloth interior and one with a sports styling pack available only in Lago Grey.

A unique two-tone interior is introduced on both derivatives, in contrasting Ebony and Storm. The derivative featuring the sports styling pack will offer a



Stylish: From £26,695.

leather interior and the standard version with a cloth/leather interior.

The Sport emblem is embossed on the front and outer rear seat head restraints, with Storm coloured stitching on all seats and unique Ebony interior carpet mats with contrast piping feature throughout.

The Freelander 2 Sport is available with the powerful and economical 2.2-litre TD4 diesel power unit. The manual diesel comes with Stop/Start technology delivering an 8 per cent improvement on CO2 emissions compared to the previous manual diesel Freelander 2 (from 194g/km to 179g/km) and fuel consumption is reduced (from 37.7 to 42.2mpg – an improvement of 4.5mpg).

The Freelander 2 Sport goes on sale in January priced from £26,695.

For more information on any of the 2010 models or to book a test drive log onto www.landrover.co.uk.



The Land Rover Freelander 2 Sport: Improved.

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09 09	Kuga 2.0 Tdci Zetec 5dr M Sea Grey 3079 miles	£17,995	£16,995	£1,000
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13
PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices

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IN BANKRUPTCY
CAMBRIDGE COUNTY COURT

No. 138 of 2006 RE: KENNETH
MICHAEL KEARNS I intend to
pay within four months from
26 January 2010 (being the
last day for proving) the first
and final dividend of 17 p/p.
Creditors who have not yet
proved their debts must do so
by 26 January 2010 otherwise
they will be excluded from the
dividend. The required proof of
debt form is available on the
Insolvency Service website
(www.insolvency.gov.uk,
select "Forms" and then form
6.37). Alternatively, you can
contact my office at 2nd Floor,
Sunley House, Bedford Park,
CROYDON, CR9 1TX
telephone 02086 67-8135 to
supply a form.

P Cropper, Official Receiver
and Trustee, NDU Croydon,
2nd Floor, Sunley House,
Bedford Park, Croydon,
CR9 1TX

Public Notices



HIGHWAYS AGENCY
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 -
SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A14 TRUNK ROAD (JUNCTION 24
GODMANCHESTER TO JUNCTION 23 SPITALS
INTERCHANGE, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE)
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION
OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 201

Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the A14 Trunk Road at Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, in the interest of safety, whilst essential maintenance to replace the bridge joints on Huntingdon Railway Viaduct and carriageway re-surfacing works are carried out.

It is expected that the works would take place over 9 weeks between the hours of 10pm Fridays until 6am the following Monday mornings and 9pm - 6am Mondays to Thursdays starting on, or after, Friday 15 January 2010. The Order would come into force on 11 January 2010 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

The effect of the Order would be to close, in turn -

- the A14 eastbound and westbound carriageways between their junctions with the westbound entry and eastbound exit slip roads at the A14/A1198/B1044 Godmanchester Interchange J24 and the eastbound entry and westbound exit slip roads at the A14/A141 Spittals Interchange J23,
- the A14 eastbound entry slip road at J23 and the westbound entry slip road at J24, and
- the layby's adjacent to the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A14 situated between J24 Godmanchester Interchange and J23 Spittals Interchange for 24 hours daily for the duration of the works.

In the interest of safety, traffic would be slowed down to 50 miles per hour 1 mile prior to the carriageway closures on both the eastbound and westbound carriageways.

Eastbound traffic would be diverted via J23 Spittals Interchange, the A14 westbound, J21 Bampton Hut Interchange, the A1 southbound, the A1/A428 spur to Eaton Socon Roundabout, and the A428 eastbound, then either:

- continue on the A14 eastbound to J31 Girton Interchange, or
- for local traffic only, north around Caxton Gibbet Roundabout onto the A1198 to rejoin the A14 at J24 Godmanchester, or
- for traffic wishing to join the M11 southbound, continue onto the A14 eastbound exiting at J32 Histon Interchange (B1049) then onto the A14 westbound to next exit slip road onto the M11 southbound at A14 J31; or
- alternatively use the A1303.

Westbound traffic would be diverted via the A428 westbound at J31 Girton Interchange and continue to Eaton Socon to join the A1 northbound to J21 Bampton Hut Interchange, then either:

- from Bampton Hut Interchange onto the A14 eastbound to J23 Spittals Interchange to rejoin the A14 westbound, or
- continue onto the A1(M) northbound at J21 Bampton Hut Interchange.

Traffic travelling on the M11 northbound towards J14 wishing to proceed to the A14/A1(M) and further west would be diverted at J14 via J32 Histon Interchange (B1049), or alternatively diverted at J13 via A1303, the A428 westbound, Eaton Socon and the A1 northbound to J21 Bampton Hut Interchange, then either:

- J21 Bampton Hut Interchange onto the A14 eastbound to J23 Spittals Interchange to rejoin the A14 westbound, or
- continue north onto the A1(M) northbound at J21 Bampton Hut Interchange.

Local traffic travelling on the A1307 from Cambridge town towards A14 J31 wishing to proceed to A14/A1(M) and further west would be diverted at A14 J30 Day Drayton Interchange, A14 eastbound from J30 to J32 Histon Interchange, A14 westbound from J32 to J31 Girton Interchange, then A428 westbound, Eaton Socon and the A1 northbound to J21 Bampton Hut Interchange, then either:

- J21 Bampton Hut Interchange onto the A14 eastbound to J23 Spittals Interchange to rejoin the A14 westbound, or
- continue north onto the A1(M) northbound at J21 Bampton Hut Interchange.

The temporary mandatory speed limit (which would not apply to emergency service vehicles) and closures (which would not apply to emergency service, traffic officer, works vehicles or winter service maintenance vehicles) and diversion routes would be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the works.

MRS A V MIDDLETON
An official of the Highways Agency

General Enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to Rob Barron at the Highways Agency, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Manton Industrial Estate, Bedford MK41 3LW or by telephoning 01234 796363.

Public Notices



HIGHWAYS AGENCY
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 -
SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE M11 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 9 TO JUNCTION 12, CAMBRIDGESHIRE)
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the M11 Motorway in Cambridgeshire, to provide a safe working environment for the workforce whilst carriageway resurfacing works are carried out between Junctions 10 and 11.

The works will take place overnight between 8pm-6am Mondays to Thursdays, 9pm-8am Fridays, 7pm-10am Saturdays and 9pm-6am Sundays and are expected to begin on or after Monday 4 January 2010 and last for approximately 3 months. The Order will come into force on 29 December 2009 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

The effect of the Order will be to -

- close, in turn, the northbound and southbound carriageways of the M11 between its junctions with the entry and exit slip roads at Junctions 10 and 11, including those slip roads; and
 - impose a 50 miles per hour speed limit, for 24 hours a day in the interest of safety due to incomplete safety barrier and to accommodate overnight works, on the M11 -
- northbound carriageway between the centre point of Ickleton Grange Overbridge, north of Junction 9 and 300 metres north of the centre point of Plant Breeding Institute Overbridge, north of Junction 11 including the northbound entry and exit slip roads at Junctions 10 and 11, and
 - southbound carriageway between the centre point of Haggis Farm Overbridge at Junction 12 and 500 metres north of the centre point of Duxford Grange Overbridge south of Junction 10, including the southbound entry and exit slip roads at Junctions 10 and 11.

During the closures -

- traffic wishing to join the M11 southbound at J14 will be diverted via the A14 eastbound to J35 at Stow cum Quy, the A1303 eastbound to join the A1304 southbound, the A11 and either the A505 to M11 J10 at Duxford or the M11 Spur Road to M11 J9,
- southbound traffic at M11 J11 will be diverted via the A10 towards Royston then the A505 to M11 J10 at Duxford, and
- northbound traffic will be diverted at M11 J9 onto the M11 Spur road then via the A11, the A1304 and the A1303 to join the A14 at J36 to M11 J14, alternatively, northbound traffic will be diverted at M11 J10 via the A505 eastbound, the A11, the A1304 and the A1303 to join the A14 at J36 to M11 J14.

Vehicles with an overall width exceeding 2.9 metres will be exempt from the closure described at (a) due to unsuitable diversion routes and will wait to be escorted through the works area.

The temporary mandatory speed limit (which will not apply to emergency service vehicles) and closures (which will not apply to works, emergency service, traffic officer or winter service maintenance vehicles) will be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the works.

MRS A V MIDDLETON
An official of the Highways Agency

General enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to Nick Cook at the Highways Agency, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Manton Industrial Estate, Bedford MK41 3LW or by telephoning him on 01234 796040.

Club Premises Certificates / Premises Licence - Variation

Name of applicant: Abbey Croft Leisure
Name of premises: Haverhill Leisure Centre
Postal address of premises (or description of premises): Ehringhausen Way, Haverhill CB9 0ER

This application may be viewed at: St Edmundsbury Borough Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3YU
www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk

Proposed variation: Due to a recent refurbishment, various sports, events and activities are scheduled, consumption and sale of alcohol.

Dates between which representations may be made to the Licensing Authority:
Start date: 17th Dec 2009
Closing date: 14th Jan 2010

Representations must be made in writing to the attention of the Licensing Services Manager, St Edmundsbury Borough Council (as the Licensing Authority) at the above address.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

Public Notices

BIDWELLS

On behalf of the D. Gurteen & Sons

D. Gurteen & Sons are in the process of preparing a draft Development Brief for the re-use and redevelopment of Chauntry Mill, Haverhill.

Bidwells, on behalf of D. Gurteen & Sons, would like to invite you to a public exhibition to find out more about the developing proposals. Representatives of the development team will be available to explain more about the emerging Development Brief and answer any questions you may have.

Date/Time: Tuesday 5 January 2010 2pm - 8pm

Venue: Chauntry Mill, off Mill Road, Haverhill

The consultation period runs from Tuesday 5 January 2010 to Monday 1 February 2010 (5pm).

Please note that the exhibition material will be available for viewing in the reception area of Chauntry Mill on weekdays between 10am - 4pm.

For further information please refer to St Edmundsbury Borough Council website (from 5 January 2010) or contact us by email at chauntrymills@bidwells.co.uk



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>> Football

On the right track

Mid-table is our aim now: Betts

PETER Betts will thoroughly enjoy his Christmas dinner after seeing Haverhill almost surpass last season's points haul in just 18 games.

The manager has been delighted with Rovers' displays in the first half of the Ridgeons League, Premier Division campaign, which have earned them 23 points – five fewer than they mustered in 42 outings last term.

Haverhill, who were saved from relegation last season following a league restructure, have only won one of their last six league games.

But the boss has been pleased with the side's levels of performance recently and thinks a mid-table finish is a realistic ambition.

"We're delighted with how it's gone so far," said Betts. "The aim was to compete and stay in the division after getting a reprieve last season."

"We worked hard to strengthen the squad in the summer, which we did in the right areas. And the improvement has been massive."

"Mid-table is the aim now and, considering where we were this time last year, it shows we've really come on and are doing well."

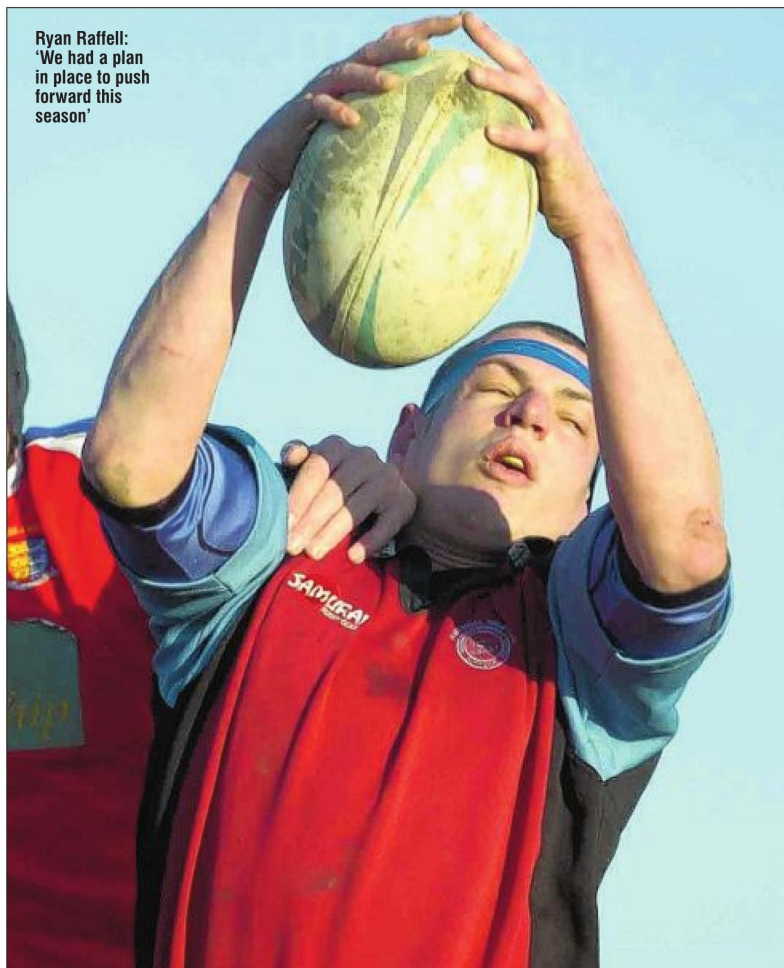
Haverhill, whose game at Dereham at the weekend was postponed because of the snow, visit Newmarket on Boxing Day and welcome Ely to Hamlet Croft on December 28.

Betts said: "If we can get six points from the two games over Christmas we'll be well pleased."

>> Premier Division table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CRC	19	16	2	1	53	13	50
Needham Mkt.	22	15	5	2	46	20	50
Leiston	20	15	1	4	55	22	46
Stanway Rovers	18	11	3	4	45	18	36
Felix & W Utd.	19	9	4	6	27	31	31
Wisbech Town	19	9	5	5	36	20	30
Kirkley & Pakefield	15	9	2	4	30	14	29
Mildenhall Tn.	18	9	2	7	35	36	29
Dereham Town	20	8	4	8	36	32	28
Debenham LC	17	8	2	7	28	30	26
Histon res	20	8	3	9	37	47	26
Wroxham	16	7	4	5	31	25	25
Walsham Le Willows	19	7	4	8	32	30	25
Hadleigh Utd.	19	7	4	8	27	38	25
Newmarket Tn.	20	7	3	10	39	36	24
Ely City	18	7	2	9	31	36	23
Norwich Utd	21	5	6	10	31	38	21
Haverhill Rovers	17	5	5	7	26	29	20
Woodbridge Tn.	19	2	0	17	14	53	6
Wivenhoe	18	0	2	16	9	51	2
Harwich & Pktn	18	0	1	17	12	61	1

Ryan Raffell:
'We had a plan
in place to push
forward this
season'



>> Rugby Union

We're learning all time, says Ryan

AFTER a campaign consolidating as a squad and finding their footing, Haverhill have been reaping the benefits this season in Eastern Counties Two.

The Suffolk side had been struggling for numbers and consistency, but having settled during the 2008-09 campaign, they have a 100 per cent record – eight wins out of eight – as they sit one match off the halfway point of this season.

Skipper Ryan Raffell took over the reins from Paul Bergin during the summer, having been nurtured into the role. "We had a plan in place to push forward this season, and we have a lot of good players," said Raffell. "It's a bit of togetherness and you take experience from places where you get beat and should not get beaten. We're still learning but we're able to eke it out."

"Since the Southwold game (in the Suffolk Plate) we've not played well at all, but playing badly and still winning is not bad. We're looking to take every game as it comes. "I would love to carry it on,

and we have to have a bit of belief in ourselves. The more wins we get, the more people will want to knock us off our perch."

Raffell was also full of praise for the role of chairman of playing Tony Hope.

"Without his help and organisation, we would not be where we are," said Raffell. "It's a good little set-up and the club is run the right way. "The organisation behind the scenes is second to none and they are always trying to help. They are putting the effort in to make the club better."

And the skipper echoed the views of Hope from earlier in the season, when he appealed for players from within the Haverhill area to join the club, rather than moving to other teams in Mid-Anglia, to help all their teams push on.

"If we could get everyone living in Haverhill to play for Haverhill then we would be away," he said. "If we're going to get promotion I need some more players. We must have used between 25 and 30 players and every one has stepped up."

>> Golf

AN impressive back nine helped Haverhill pair Lee Chandler and Joe Davis win the Suffolk Winter Alliance round at Stoke by Nayland's Gainsborough course. They racked up 24 points to lift their score to 43 on a course still suffering from the effects of heavy rain. Chandler and Davis won on countback from Paul Davey and Keith Rooney (Stowmarket) with Paul Pressland and Trevor Holley (Stowmarket) third on 41.

>> Darts

HAVERHILL WINTER LEAGUE

Rose Tavern B 5 Rose Tavern A 3. Singles: R Manning (100) bt Leanne Topper, K Gaylor (100) It A Topper (140, 100), D Manning (140, 112) bt C Dale (100), S Manning (100) bt M Perry, G Manning (100x2) bt J Cawley (100x2). Doubles: S Manning (100, 140), F Manning (100x2) It J Cawley (100, 140x2), D Manning & G Manning (100x2) It J Cawley (100, 140x2), Leanne Topper. Fours: G Manning, D Manning (100x2,116), K Gaylor, S Manning bt A Topper (100, 105), Leanne Topper, C Dale, J Cawley. Captains Cup: Rose Tavern A. White Hart 0 ESMC 8. Singles: L Varney It P Huggill (100), A Yates It S Wright (100x2), J Gambrell It C Biginton (100), C Robinson (138) It S Dickson (100), B Marlow (100x2) It G Flynn (100x2, 140, 160, 123). Doubles: A Yates, B Marlow (100, 119, 100) It C Biginton (100x2), R Phillips (100x2), J Gambrell (100, 118) & L Varney It S Wright (100x2), D Fish. Fours: B Marlow, M Whitehead, C Robinson, A Yates It S Dickson (180), D Fish, R Phillips (100), P Huggill. Captains Cup: ESMC (G Flynn, S Dickson, J Cawley 180s).

Haverhill Weekly News



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